

Message Text

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SUBJECT: HUTA KATOWICE CEREMONIAL OPENING

REF: WARSAW 8922

1. SUMMARY. FOUR YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS OF WELL-PUBLICIZED
CONSTRUCTION AT POLAND'S LARGEST INDUSTRIAL PROJECT, THE
KATOWICE STEEL WORKS, CULMINATED WITH A LAVISH CEREMONIAL
OPENING DECEMBER 14. THE TWIN THEMES OF THE EXTENSIVE
ORATORY WERE PRIDE IN THE POLISH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
GRATITUDE TO THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ENTIRE POLISH PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP APPEARED
FOR THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF HUTA KATOWICE, WHICH WAS
DRAMATIZED BY A CEREMONIAL MEETING OF THE POLITBIURO
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WITH CONSTRUCTION AND STEEL WORKERS FROM THE PROJECT.
AS REPORTED IN REF, PREMIER ALEKSEY KOSYGIN LED A SOVIET
DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET STATE
COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS SEMYON SKACHKOV,
THE MINISTER OF THE IRON INDUSTRY IVAN KAZANYETS, AND THE
MINISTER OF THE HEAVY BUILDING MACHINE AND TRANSPORT IN-

DUSTRY VLADIMIR ZHIGALIN. THE CEREMONIES ALSO INCLUDED AWARDING OF DECORATIONS TO POLISH AND SOVIET WORKERS, SPEECHES, AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE "BUILDING OF HUTA KATOWICE" AWARD TO BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN, GIEREK, JABLONSKI, AND JAROSZEWICZ. SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS WERE SENT TO BREZHNEV AT THE CLOSE OF THE CEREMONIES.

3. IN THE COURSE OF NUMEROUS INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES, PIOTR JAROSZEWICZ EMPHASIZED THAT HUTA KATOWICE WAS THE "COMMON WORK OF THE WHOLE NATION," WHERE POLES LEARNED TO "SOLVE PROBLEMS COLLECTIVELY" AND WHERE "ONLY HIGH QUALITY WORK" COUNTED. POLISH GRATITUDE TO THE SOVIET UNION WAS SYMBOLIZED BY "IDENTITY CARD NO. 1" PRESENTED TO LEONID BREZHNEV BY THE HUTA KATOWICE CONSTRUCTION CREW IN 1974. COUNCIL OF STATE CHAIRMAN HENRYK JABLONSKI AND KATOWICE PZPR FIRST SECRETARY ZDZISLAW GRUDZIEN REPEATED THESE THEMES IN THEIR SPEECHES.

4. GIEREK EXPANDED ON THE INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES. HE CHARACTERIZED HUTA KATOWICE AS A "LASTING MONUMENT TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PRESENT GENERATION" WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE "STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE OF SOCIALIST POLAND." HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE HUTA IS NOT ONLY THE "WORK OF THE WHOLE NATION" BUT ALSO A "SIGN OF THE DEEP REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE CONTEMPORARY GENERATION." THE FIRST SECRETARY WAS LAVISH IN PRAISE OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT "SOVIET SUPPLIES OF RAW MATERIALS, FUELS, TECHNOLOGICAL MACHINES, EQUIPMENT AND PROJECTS AS WELL AS GRAIN AND FOOD ARTICLES" WERE HELPFUL IS "SATISFYING THE DAILY NEEDS OF OUR SOCIETY." HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRAISED THE OPPORTUNITY "ACCESS TO THE SOVIET MARKET" PROVIDED FOR THE SPECIALIZATION AND MODERNIZATION OF POLISH INDUSTRY AND DELARED POLISH-SOVIET TRADE TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF "INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM." HE EXPRESSED HIS "DEEP, HEARFELT THANKS" FOR THE "BROTHERLY KINDNESS", WITHOUT WHICH NEITHER THE RATE OF CONSTRUCTION NOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HUTA KATOWICE WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

5. COMMENT. GIEREK'S PRAISE TO THE SOVIET UNION AT KATOWICE WAS UNUSUALLY INTENSE. HIS REFERENCE TO SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN "SATISFYING DAILY NEEDS" IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A THEMATIC DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE POLISH SPEECHES, WHICH EMPHASIZED THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE "WHOLE POLISH NATION" IN ADDITION TO THE POLISH-SOVIET ALLIANCE, AND KOSYGIN'S SPEECH, WHERE THE LEITMOTIF WAS RATHER THE SILESIAN REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION BEGINNING WITH DZIERZYNSKI.

END COMMENT.

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